environmental control council

for the year ending Dec. 31, 1982

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annual report

environmental control council

for the year ending Dec. 31, 1982

Province of
Nova Scotia

TO HIS HONOUR

THE HONOURABLE ALAN R. ABRAHAM, C.D.

Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia

May it please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council for the year ending December 31, 1982.

I have the honour to be, Sir:

Your most obedient servant,

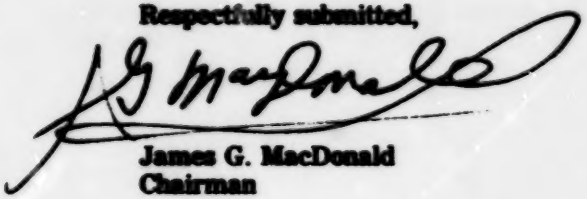
George Moody
Minister of the Environment

Honourable George Moody
Minister
Department of the Environment
Province of Nova Scotia
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council for the year ending December 31, 1982.

Respectfully submitted,



James G. MacDonald
Chairman

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Control Council is a 12 to 15 member citizen advisory board to the Minister of the Environment, established under the Environmental Protection Act, SNS 1973 c.6.

This Annual Report is submitted under Section 16 of the Environmental Protection Act, and describes Council activities during the 1982 calendar year.

STRUCTURE

The Environmental Protection Act sets out the composition, function and responsibilities of the Environmental Control Council. The 12 to 15 members are appointed by the Governor in Council, and are to represent 11 specified disciplines. In addition, the Deputy Minister of the Environment is an ex-officio member of the Council.

At year's end, the membership roll was as follows:

Executive Members	
James G. MacDonald, Chairman	Sydney, At Large
Murdena Carmichael	South Haven, Victoria Co., At Large
Members	
Dr. Benson Auld	Halifax, Health
Mr. J. Fraser Dunn	Antigonish, At Large
Mr. James Harrison	Dartmouth, Conservation
Mr. J. Robert MacQueen	Lower Sackville, Academic
Mr. Roydon B. Vail	Kentville, At Large
Mr. R.K. MacKinnon	Liverpool, At Large
Mr. Amos Lewis	Hampton, Annapolis Co., Agriculture
Mr. Larry MacKenzie	Yarmouth, Fisheries
Mr. R. Wendell Phinney	Kentville, Municipal
Mr. R. Vernon King	Waverley, Industry

E.L.L. Rowe, P.Eng., Deputy Minister of the Environment, is ex-officio member attending both Executive and Council meetings. Mr. Morris J. Haugg, Amherst, is Secretary and Chief Executive Officer. J.G. Ogden III, Ph.D., Consultant, also attends both Executive and Council meetings.

There were no appointments to Council during 1982. However, the terms of Mr. R.H. Burgess, Truro (Forestry) and Mr. Ralph Hennigar, Mahone Bay (Legal) expired during the year. Thus, three vacancies, in the forestry, legal and labour categories, existed at the end of 1982.

Council has contacted the Minister's office with respect to these vacancies, and it is hoped that appointments will be made early in 1983.

In April, 1982, Donna McCready, Public Information Officer with the Department, was assigned on a part-time basis to Council. In October, she became full-time Research Co-ordinator to Council.

MEETINGS

Council met on three occasions during 1982: twice in Halifax, and once in Digby in connection with the 7th Joint National Assembly of Environmental Advisory Councils. There were 10 regular Executive meetings, nine in Halifax and one in Sydney.

The schedule of meetings was as follows:

Council Meetings
February 21-22 - Halifax
June 6 - Digby
November 21-22 - Halifax

Executive Meetings
January 21-22 - Halifax
February 21 - Halifax
April 26-27 - Halifax
May 11 - Halifax
June 24 - Halifax
July 10 - Sydney
September 21 - Halifax
October 21-22 - Halifax
November 21 - Halifax
December 13 - Halifax

Other meetings of the Executive and involvement of members of Council or the Executive at other meetings are described elsewhere in this Report.

HEARINGS

Under Section 17(2) of the Environmental Protection Act, the Minister may authorize Council to conduct Public Hearings on environmental matters. During 1982, the Executive conducted one Hearing, and was involved in follow-up to a Hearing held in 1981.

Cobequid Industrial Park

On January 18, 1982, the Minister of the Environment instructed the Environmental Control Council to conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed Cobequid Industrial Park at Windsor Junction, Halifax County. On Monday, March 29, 1982, the Public Hearing was held before the Committee of James G. MacDonald, Chairman, Robert H. Burgess, and Murdena Carmichael at the Halifax County Council Chambers. The Hearing continued through March 30 and was reconvened in the same location on April 15, 1982.

Six accredited parties appeared before the Committee and were permitted to cross-examine other witnesses.

The Report was submitted to the Minister on July 10, 1982. The majority opinion, submitted by James MacDonald and Murdena Carmichael, recommended approval of the proposal with certain identified stipulations. Robert Burgess submitted a dissenting opinion that the benefits of the project would not justify the environmental risks.

The majority recommendation was accepted by the Minister and the Report was released on November 1, 1982.

Aylesford Lake Cottage Development

In 1981, Council reported to the Minister of the Environment on a Public Hearing held on a proposed cottage development at Aylesford Lake, Kings County. The proponent, Chignecto Lands Ltd., submitted an altered proposal for development of cottage lots to the Minister.

Although this proposal did not adhere to the specific recommendations of the Council Report, Council agreed that it was not contrary to the intent of the recommendations and that approval of the

new proposal would not lead to increased contamination of Aylesford Lake.

ACTIVITIES

Environmental Awards

Once again, Council appointed a Selection Committee for the Nova Scotia Environmental Awards. On the recommendation of the Committee of Wendall Phinney, Vernon King and R.K. MacKinnon, Awards were presented to: Mr. Ken Margeson, Lower Sackville (Individual); Mr. Ed Coleman, Kentville (Professional); Noval Technologies Limited, Halifax (Industry); Katimavik, Pennell Indian Reserve, New Ross (Organizations); Cumberland District Planning Commission (Government); and J.L. Ilsley High School, Halifax (Youth).

At the recommendation of Council, 14 Certificates of Merit were presented in addition to the major Awards. The presentation was held in the Red Chamber, Province House, on April 5th.

With the 1982 Awards to be presented in mid-1983, this program will be transferred entirely to Council.

Hampton Beach Project

A pilot project to evaluate the efficiency of erosion control using derelict vehicles and armour rock compared with armour rock alone was completed in 1981 under the supervision of Council member Amos Lewis. The work remained in place during the winter, and Council has requested assistance from the Department to prepare a report on the project.

Nictaux Gravel Pit

Resolution of a potentially dangerous situation created by the formation of pools in some areas of the gravel pit is complicated by multiple ownership of the property. Council will continue to work with the Department to achieve a resolution.

Amendments To Environmental Protection Act

A number of amendments were proposed to make the legislation conform with current Council operation, such as changing the name to Environmental Advisory Council. Recommendations were forwarded to the Minister.

In addition, Council conducted an internal review of the Guidelines for Public Hearings, and will continue to re-assess these in the light of experience.

Lake Management Study

As a result of the Aylesford Lake Hearing, Council became concerned about the degree of lakeshore development in the Province. A review of actions in other jurisdictions indicated that there is a precedent for establishing guidelines for development, based on predictions of the lake's capacity to assimilate contaminants. A proposal for the development of a predictive model was received and recommended to the Minister. The Department agreed to include funding for such a study in its 1983-84 budget submission.

Derelict Vehicle Study

A study of legislation and procedures to deal with the derelict vehicle program in various jurisdictions was completed. The material was forwarded to the Department.

Environmental Education

A report and recommendations on environmental education, especially public education, was completed and submitted to the Minister. No action has been taken.

INFORMATION SEMINARS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

For the education of Council members, seminars on specific environmental topics form a portion of each regular Council meeting. Invited speakers are chosen to present various perspectives on the subject.

In February, Council heard presentations on uranium exploration and mining by Mr. Gordon Dickie of Shell Resources Ltd., and by Mr. Creighton Brisco of the Department of the Environment. In April, opponents of uranium exploration were invited to present their views on the issue.

The seminar in November was devoted to public participation, and was preceded by distribution of information on the principles and techniques of public participation. A panel discussion provided the forum for discussion of various approaches to public participation. The Panel included Ms. Susan Holtz, Ecology Action Centre; Mrs. Audrey Manzer, Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board; and Miss Donna McCready, Research Co-ordinator; and was chaired by J.G. Ogden III, Consultant. Further work will be done in the field of public participation, with the goal of formulating recommendations to improve public participation procedures.

In addition to the seminars, Council studied the following topics:

Pesticides - The use of pesticides in forest management was discussed, and both Robert Burgess and J.G. Ogden III presented reports to Council.

Offshore Development - At the request of the Minister, the Executive met with the Deputy Minister and staff of Policy Board to discuss the environmental assessment of offshore development. Although Council is not involved at present, Robert Burgess provided a report on the structure and procedures of the federal-provincial Environmental Assessment Panel. Mr. Burgess was appointed to the Panel on his retirement from Council.

MEETINGS

Seventh National Joint Assembly of Environmental Advisory Councils

Much of Council's activity in 1982 was directed toward planning the National Joint Assembly of Advisory Councils, held at Digby Pines in June.

The major discussion and workshop topics were:

Environmental Input to Surface Mining, introduced by Mr. John Smith of Novaco;

Energy and the Environment, introduced by Professor John Young of Saint Mary's University; and

Environmental Education, introduced by Mr. Ken Fawcett of Saskatchewan Environment.

In addition to the workshop topics, a panel discussion was held on the topic of Global 2000, the Canadian perspective of the Global 2000 report to the President of the United States of America.

A field trip to the Annapolis Tidal Power Pilot Project was preceded by a presentation on the Project by Mr. George Baker of the Tidal Power Corporation and Mr. Richard DeLorey of the Nova Scotia Power Corporation.

The Nova Scotia Council agreed that the most useful portion of the meeting was the education session, and much of the ensuing discussion of education and public participation was generated by that session.

The report and proceedings of the meeting were prepared in Nova Scotia and distributed to all participants.

Municipal Planning Conference

Morris Haugg represented Council at the Municipal Planning Conference in November. He participated in a session on standards for lakeshore developments, based on Council's experience with the Aylesford Lake Hearing.